

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

By Jackson

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Herbert L. Harper for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of public service; and

WHEREAS, Herbert L. Harper is one such estimable public servant who served with distinction for thirty-one years as Executive Director of the Tennessee Historical Commission; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harper took a much deserved retirement from his post on October 31, 2006; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary thirty-seven-year tenure as a member of the Tennessee Historical Commission, Herbert L. Harper distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to this State; and

WHEREAS, born in Clemmons, North Carolina, in 1928, Herbert Harper graduated from Clemmons High School, received a bachelor's degree from David Lipscomb University in Nashville, and performed additional studies at the University of Tennessee's Nashville campus; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harper has also studied Historic Preservation Planning at the Institute of Government, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Historic and Archeological Preservation with the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Commission; and

WHEREAS, from 1949 to 1968, Herbert Harper was a partner in a Nashville real estate and construction firm; beginning in 1969, he served as director of field services for the Tennessee Historical Commission, before becoming its Executive Director in 1975; and

WHEREAS, in addition to other duties, Herbert L. Harper served with distinction as editor of *The Courier*, the newsletter of the Tennessee Historical Commission, for twenty-five years, and he produced many programs and wrote numerous articles about Tennessee history, such works often reflecting his lifelong interest in the Civil War; moreover, from 1983 to 1987, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Mr. Harper has received many awards from various historical organizations, including the Patron's Award for "Outstanding Contributions to Historic Preservation" from the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County; and

WHEREAS, Herbert L. Harper is an active and important part of his community and his profession and has been a member of twenty or more professional and historical organizations, serving as an officer or board member for many of them; in Franklin, he has a long record of active participation in the Williamson County Historical Association, the Heritage Foundation, the Carter House Association, the Carnton Plantation Association, and Save the Franklin Battlefield; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Harper is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife of fifty-eight years, Bettye, and their six children, fourteen grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Herbert L. Harper, a longtime member of the Brentwood Church of Christ, is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service, Herbert L. Harper demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity throughout his estimable career, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of both his colleagues and the citizens of this great State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Herbert L. Harper for his honorable and astute

service to the good people of Tennessee as Executive Director of the Tennessee Historical Commission, salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and wish him all the best as he enjoys his much deserved retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.